EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	
ANAND DASRATH,	CV 07-2433(CBA)(RR)
Plaintiff,	
-against-	
ROSS UNIVERSTIY SCHOOL OF MEDICINE,	
Defendant.	

PLAINTIFF ANAND DASRATH'S MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN OPPOSITION TO DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO DISMISS THE COMPLAINT

Respectfully submitted,

The Law Offices of Albert Adam Breud, P.L.L.C. 356 Veterans Memorial Highway Suite 8N Commack, New York 11725 Telephone: (631) 543-3030 Facsimile: (631) 543-2888 Attorney for Plaintiff

Table of Authorities Cases AmBase Corp. v. City Investing Co. Liquidating Trust, 326 F.3d 63 (2d Cir., 2003)......3 Clarke v. Trustees of Columbia Univ., 1996 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15620 (S.D.N.Y., 1996)......4 <u>Lunney v. United States</u>, 319 F.3d 550 (2d Cir., 2003)...... Russian Standard Vodka, Inc., et al., v. Allied Domecq Spirits & Wine USA, Inc., et al., <u>Shields v. Citytrust Bancorp.</u>, 25 F.3d 1124 (2d Cir., 1994).....5 **Statutes** Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 9(b)......5

Preliminary Statement

On June 15, 2007 Plaintiff Anand Dasrath ("Dasrath" and or "Plaintiff") commenced an action in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York. Plaintiff's Complaint alleges Defendant Ross University School of Medicine ("Ross" and or "Defendant") engaged in unlawful age discrimination in violation of both the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, 42 U.S.C. § 6102, et seq. ("ADA") and New York State Executive Law, New York State Human Rights Law § 296(4) ("NYSHRL"), as well as breach of contract and fraud.

By Notice of Motion dated November 30, 2007 Defendant moves to dismiss Plaintiff's Complaint pursuant to Rules 12(b)(1) and (6) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure ("Fed. R. Civ. Pro") arguing the Court lacks subject matter jurisdiction over Plaintiff's ADA claim and that Plaintiff's Complaint failed to state a cause of action upon which relief may be granted as to his NYSHRL, breach of contract and fraud claims. Plaintiff submits this Memorandum of Law in opposition to Defendant's Motion to Dismiss and, for the following reasons, Defendant's motion to dismiss should be denied.

Statement of Facts

Dasrath enrolled in medical school at Defendant in May 2004 and was, upon information and belief, one of the oldest members of his class. Complaint at ¶6. Ross is a medical school located on the island of the Dominica in the West Indies (Def.'s Mem. at 1), with offices in Edison, New Jersey and Miami, Florida. (Complaint ¶3). Ross is an accredited institution by the United States Department of Education and receives various forms of Federal funding or financial assistance. *Id*.

In the Spring of 2006 Dasrath enrolled in, and took, the Advanced Introduction to Clinical Medicine ("AICM") course at Defendant. Complaint at ¶7. According to Defendant,

AICM is a prerequisite course for eligibility to take the United States Medical Licensing Examination Step 1 ("USMLE 1") (Def.'s Mem. at 2). USMLE 1 is the first of several examinations that foreign medical school students must pass to be able to practice medicine in the United States. *Id*.

Dasrath received his transcript in In May 2006 and it had a "blank space" where his grade for AICM should have been. He demanded to review his academic file, including the scantron sheets he submitted his examination answers on, but his demands were denied. Plaintiff was advised by his professor, Dr. Fernandez, that he received a "94%" on the exam. Complaint at ¶7.

Previously, in March 2006, Plaintiff submitted an application to take the USMLE 1 which included a certification by Defendant that Dasrath was "officially enrolled in" school at Defendant. See Exhibit "1". Plaintiff sat for and took the USMLE 1 on July 27, 2006 but his grade was not released as he was advised that he was "not authorized to take the exam" when he took it because he was not enrolled in a medical school at the time he took the examination.

Complaint at ¶11. By letter dated June 29, 2006 Defendant notified Dasrath he had been "Administratively Withdrawn" from Ross "for failure to register for the May 2006 AICM course." See Exhibit "2". On August 14, 2008 Plaintiff received his grade for AICM, an "F".

Plaintiff was advised that he had indeed passed the AICM class and that AICM was not a prerequisite to taking the USMLE 1. Plaintiff was told the NBME comprehensive exam was the prerequisite for taking the USMLE 1. Plaintiff passed the NBME. <u>Id</u>. Plaintiff approached his student advisor and was told not to "rock the boat" because Defendant discriminates on the basis of age. Complaint at ¶14.

Standard of Review

When considering a motion to dismiss pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. Pr. 12(b)(1) for lack of subject matter jurisdiction the court must accept the factual allegations made in the complaint as true and reasonable inferences must be drawn in favor of the plaintiff. Russian Standard Vodka, Inc., et al., v. Allied Domecq Spirits & Wine USA, Inc., et al., 523 F. Supp. 2d 376, 378 (S.D.N.Y., 2007)(citing Lunney v. United States, 319 F.3d 550, 554 (2d Cir., 2003). The court may resolve disputed facts by reference to evidence outside the pleadings, including affidavits.

Id. (citing State Employees Bargaining Agent Coal. v. Rowland, 494 F.3d 71, 75 (2d Cir., 2007).

In deciding a motion to dismiss pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. Pro. 12(b)(6), the court's role is to "assess the legal feasibility of the complaint, not to assay the evidence which might be offered in support thereof." Barea v. State Univ. of N.Y. at Albany, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 46681*8 (N.D.N.Y.)(quoting AmBase Corp. v. City Investing Co. Liquidating Trust, 326 F.3d 63, 72 (2d Cir., 2003). A Rule 12(b)(6) motion should result in dismissal of the complaint when 'it appears beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of the complaint which would entitle him to relief." *Id.* (quoting Twombly v. Bell Atl. Corp., 425 F. 3d 99, 106 (2d Cir., 2005)). When reviewing a motion to dismiss, the court "must accept the facts alleged in the complaint as true and construe all reasonable inferences in [the plaintiff's] favor." *Id.* (quoting Fowlkes v. Adamec, 432 F.3d 90, 95(2d Cir., 2005)(internal citations omitted).

<u>Argument</u>

Point I

The Court Has Subject Matter Jurisdiction

The ADA requires "as a prerequisite to suit, that notice of the action be given thirty days prior to commencing suit to 'the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the Attorney General

of the United States, and the person against whom the action is directed." <u>Barea</u>, 2006 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 46681*15(quoting 42 U.S.C. § 6104(e)(1)). "This notice must set forth the alleged violation of the ADA, the relief requested, the court in which the action shall be brought, and whether attorney's fees will be demanded." <u>Id</u> (citing 42 U.S.C. § 6104(e)(2)).

In 2006, Plaintiff contacted the attorney general and the United States Attorney for New Jersey and was advised that because a grade had been issued that the attorney general would not investigate his claim of an ADA violation and he was instructed to file a complaint in court. See Exhibit "3". Plaintiff, therefore, did comply with the spirit and intent of the notice provisions of the ADA as well as exhausting his administrative remedies and, therefore, this court does have subject matter jurisdiction over his ADA cause of action and Defendant's motion to dismiss should be denied.

Point II

Plaintiff Has Properly Plead a Claim for Breach of Contract

An implied contract arises when a student enrolls in a university. If the student complies with the terms prescribed by the university, the student will obtain the degree they seek. See Gally v. Columbia Univ., et al., 22 F. Supp. 2d 199, 206 (S.D.N.Y., 1998)(internal citations omitted). "Implicit in this contract is that the university must act in good faith in dealing with the student." Id. (internal citations omitted). "[T]erms of the implied contract are supplied by the bulletins, circulars, and regulations made available to the student. Id. (citing Clarke v. Trustees of Columbia Univ., 1996 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 15620*5 (S.D.N.Y., 1996).

Plaintiff contracted with Defendant and paid Defendant tuition in consideration of

Defendant preparing Plaintiff to become a licensed medical doctor eligible to practice medicine
in the United States. Pursuant to the contract, Defendant was to accurately record Plaintiff's

grades and sponsor Plaintiff to take the USMLE 1. Plaintiff's complaint alleges numerous instances of the breach of that contract. See Complaint at ¶¶ 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 14. Therefore, Defendant's motion to dismiss Plaintiff's cause of action for breach of contract should be denied.

Point III

Plaintiff Has Properly Plead a Claim for Fraud

Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b) requires causes of action grounded in fraud to be plead with particularity. See Fed. R. Civ. P. 9(b); *see also*, Ward v. N.Y. Univ., et al., 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 14067*18-19(S.D.N.Y.). "[T]he complaint must: i) specify the fraudulent statements; ii) identify the speaker; iii) state where and when the statements were made; and iv) explain why the statements were fraudulent." Ward, 2000 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 14067 at 19 (citing Mills v. Polar Molecular Corp., 12 F.3d 1170, 1175 (2d Cir., 1993). Additionally, a plaintiff must put forward proof of scienter by "alleging facts 'giving rise to a strong inference of fraudulent intent." Id. (quoting Shields v. Citytrust Bancorp., 25 F.3d 1124, 1127-28 (2d Cir., 1994). Such a showing can be accomplished by "alleging facts that constitute strong circumstantial evidence of conscious misbehavior or recklessness." Shields, at 1128.

Liberally construing the complaint, as this Court must do, the representations in Plaintiff's complaint give sufficient notice to allow Defendant to prepare a defense. Plaintiff's complaint alleges that he was advised he received a "94%" by his professor Dr. Fernandez in May 2006, Complaint at ¶7, that in August 2006 his grade was listed as an "F", Complaint at ¶12, that he was certified to take the USMLE 1 by Defendant, Complaint at ¶8, and that his USMLE 1 score was not released because he was not authorized to take the exam, Complaint at ¶11. Plaintiff's complaint further alleged that on August 14, 2006 he learned he was not required

to take AICM and could have taken the NBME as a prerequisite for the USMLE 1. Complaint at ¶ 12.

Plaintiff's Exhibit "3" constitutes strong circumstantial evidence of Ross' misbehavior and recklessness as it shows that in June 2006 Plaintiff was administratively withdrawn from Defendant for not registering for the AICM course even though he received an "F" from Defendant for the same course in August 2006 which begs the question of how Plaintiff could have failed a course at Ross that Ross claimed he had not even registered for and which lead to his administrative withdrawal from Ross.

Finally, Defendant argues that "New York law does not allow a Plaintiff to assert a breach of contract claim grounded on the same set of underlying facts." Def.'s Mem. at 5. (quoting Hirsch v. Columbia Univ., 293 F. Supp. 2d 372, 379-380 (S.D.N.Y., 2003). However, "[w]here the two causes of action relate to the same operative facts, to maintain a separate claim for fraud, a plaintiff must'...(ii) demonstrate a fraudulent misrepresentation collateral or extraneous to the contract." *Id.* (quoting TVT Records v. Island Def Jam Music Group, 244 F. Supp. 2d 263, 276 (S.D.N.Y., 2003)(internal quotations omitted). Plaintiff has alleged fraudulent representations that were collateral or extraneous to the contract. For instance, Plaintiff never alleged that he contracted with Defendant to receive a grade of "94%" or an "F", however, the misrepresentation or fraudulent reporting of his grades are the facts alleged that give rise to his cause of action based in fraud. Plaintiff has properly plead a cause of action for fraud and Defendant's motion to dismiss Plaintiff's fraud cause of action should be denied in its entirety.

Point IV

Plaintiff Has Plead a Claim of Age Discrimination Pursuant to NYSHRL

Defendant claims Plaintiff's NYSHRL age discrimination cause of action fails on two different bases. Initially, Defendant claims that because it is organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Dominica in the Eastern Caribbean that it is not tax exempt under New York Tax Law and, therefore, not subject to NYSHRL by definition. Defendant also claims that because Plaintiff received an "F" he was not otherwise qualified pursuant to NYSHRL. Defendant fails to submit any proof of the location of its incorporation or tax status and fails to explain how it gave Plaintiff an "F" as a grade in a course that it claims Plaintiff never registered for and caused his being administratively withdrawn from Ross. Def.'s Mem. At 5-7. As such, Defendant's motion to dismiss Plaintiff's NYSHRL cause of action should be denied in it's entirety.

Conclusion

Based upon the foregoing, Plaintiff respectfully requests that this Honorable Court issue an Order: (1) denying Defendant's motion in it's entirety: (2) allowing Plaintiff an opportunity to make a motion for a stay of the proceedings pursuant to the pre-motion conference letter dated May 20, 2008; (3) allowing Plaintiff an opportunity to amend his complaint and remedy any deficiencies in same should the Court grant any part of Defendant's motion to dismiss; and,

(4) granting Plaintiff such other and further relief as this Court may deem just and proper.

Dated: Commack, New York May 22, 2008

> Respectfully submitted, Law Offices of Albert Adam Breud, P.L.L.C.

By: /s/ Albert Adam Breud, II (AB 2355) 356 Veterans Memorial Highway

Suite 8N

Commack, New York 11725 Telephone: (631) 543-3030 Facsimile: (631) 543-2888 Attorney for Plaintiff



MAILING INSTRUCTIONS:

UNITED STATES MEDICAL LICENSING EXAMINATION™ (USMLE™)

2006 STEP 1, STEP 2 CLINICAL KNOWLEDGE (CK), AND/OR STEP 2 CLINICAL SKILLS (CS) APPLICATION FORM

FOR INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL STUDENTS/GRADUATES REGISTERED BY THE EDUCATIONAL COMMISSION FOR FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES
TELEPHONE: (215) 386-5800 INTERNET: www.ecing.org

This application is valid through August 31, 2006. See instructions.

	MAILING INSTRUCTIONS:		via courier service to:	4
	via regular mail to: Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates PO Box 48087	OR	ECFMG c/o Image Remit 205 North Center Drive	ORIGINA 0
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PART A BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION (Continued)	
5. CONTACT INFORMATION (PRINT CLEARLY):	
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s G. U E E N S V I L L A G E N E W Y O R K s City (Include Postal Code if required for non-U.S. address.)	
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8. GENDER:	
Male Female	
9. NATIVE LANGUAGE: ENGLISH	_
10. OTHER LANGUAGES SPOKEN:	
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10.1 Do you speak a language or languages other than English at home? \(\sum \text{Yes}\) No If Yes, complete item 10.2.	
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Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander 7 🖸 Other	0

Name: DAS RATH ANAND EMPN LEL Enter your USMLE/ECFMG Identification 0 704 762 7				
PART B — REGISTRATION INFORMATION				
STEP 1 AND/OR STEP 2 CK APPLICANTS ONLY COMPLETE ITEMS 13 THROUGH 16 COMPLETE ITEMS 13 THROUGH 16				
13. EXAMINEES WITH DOCUMENTED DISABILITIES: I have a documented disability and am covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act. I am requesting test accommodations for the exams (Step 1 and/or Step 2 CK) selected below. Yes No				
14. STEP 1: Fill in completely one circ 14.1 Eligibility Period — select one:	the each for eligibility period and 14.2 Testing Region — selec		region.	
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O August 1, 2006 – October 31, 2006	O Korea	\$150		
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O February 1, 2006 – April 30, 2006	Asia (For India, select India testing region.)	\$130		
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O April 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006	China (For Hong Kong, select Asia testing region.)	\$130		
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PART B — REGISTRATK	ON INFORMATION (Continued)			
17. APPLYING FOR STEP 2 CS: I am applying for Step 2 CS. Yes No				
STEP 2 CS APPLICANTS ONLY COMPLETE ITEMS 18 THROUGH 20				
18. ELIGIBILITY PERIOD, TEST CENTER, AND REGISTRATK 18.1 ELIGIBILITY PERIOD: Applicants registered for Step 2 CS are assigned a twelve-month elig is complete and must take the exam within their assigned eligibility period.	ibility period that begins on the date that the registration process			
18.2 CLINICAL SKILLS EVALUATION CENTERS: Clinical skills evaluation centers for Step 2 CS are located in Atlanta, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the United States. You will select	Georgia, Chicago, Illinois, Houston, Texas, Los Angeles, California, your test center when you schedule your testing appointment.			
18.3 PREFERRED TEST CENTER: Select the test center where you plan to take the exam. This information will be used only to forecast demand for test centers. Completing this item does not select your test center. See instructions.	18.4 PREFERRED TESTING MONTH: Enter the month and year during which you plan to take the exam. This information will be used only to forecast demand for the exam throughout the year. Completing this item does not select your testing month/year. See instructions.			
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I have graduated from medical school, but my medical diploma has not yet been issued. I am enclosing the ECFMG Medical Education Credentials Submission Form (Form 344); Medical School Release Request (Form 345); a letter from my medical school that confirms I graduated, have met the requirements to receive my medical diploma, and states the date my medical diploma will be issued; and a photograph.					
Note: ECFMG requires copies of the original tanguage medical diploma or letter from the medical school. If the medical diploma or letter is not in English, you must also submit an official English translation. Your application will be rejected if you graduated from medical school and have not submitted photocopies of your medical diploma or a letter from your medical school that confirms your graduation (as described above).					
24. OTHER MEDICAL SCHOOL(S) ATTENDER List the names, addresses, dates of attendance, and					
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Street Address					
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24.1 TRANSFER CREDITS: Did you transfer academic credits from any school(s) to the medical school that conferred or will confer your medical degree? Yes No fees, indicate on a separate sheet of paper the name of the school(s) from which the credits were transferred, the number of credits transferred, and the course titles for all credits transferred.					□ No
5. EMPLOYMENT — Present employment or	ıly:				
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(LIGHT, LANCE AND CANCILLE AL MARIE 4)	ECFMG Identification D-704-167	577
PART C — MEDICAL EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT		
26. CERTIFICATION BY APPLICANT: Students and graduates must sign the application in the Medical School Dean, Vice Dean or Registrer. (See 28	LZ.A DBOW.)	
If a graduate cannot sign the application form in the presence of a medical school official noted above, he application form in the presence of a Consular Official, First Class Magistrate or Notary Public. (See 26.2.8 below Application forms are to be matied to ECFMG from the office of the official or notary who witnesses the applic		
information on the application form is subject to verification and acceptance by the Educational Commission! Graduates.	for Foreign Medical	
I hereby certify that I currently meet the examination eligibility requirements and that the information in this ap accurate to the bast of my knowledge and that the photograph(s) enclosed were taken within 6 months of the date		
I also certify and acknowledge that I have read the 2006 ECFMS information Booklet and 2006 USMLE Bulletin aware of the contents of both publications, meet the eligibility requirements set therein and soree to abide I	n of Information, arm	
procedures therein. I understand that (1) falsification of this application, or (2) the submission of any falsified documents to	100000000000000000000000000000000000000	
submission of any falsified ECFMG documents to other agencies, or (4) the giving or receiving of aid in the evidenced either by observation at the time of the examination or by statistical analysis of my answers and the	ose of one or more	
other participants in that examination, or engaging in other conduct that subverts or attempts to subvert the en- may be sufficient cause for ECFMG to her me from the examination, to terminate my participation in the exami- and/or invalidate the results of my examination, to withhold a certificate, to revoke a certificate, or to take other	ination, to withhold	
(See page 35 of the 2006 Information Booklet for additional details concerning Validity of Scores and irregular Bell understand that the Standard ECFMG Certificate and any and all copies thereof remain the property of EC	navior.) FMG and must be Seal or stamp of official	
returned to ECFMG if ECFMG determines that the holder of the Certificate was not eligible to receive it or the issued in error.	at it was otherwise must cover a part of attached photo and a	/
I request and authorize every person, medical school, university, hospital, government agency, or othe information, records, diplomas, transcripts and other documents concerning my professional education, a enrollment to ECPMG upon request of ECFMG.		
I hereby authorize ECFIMG to transmit any information contained in this application, or information that may available to ECFIMG, to any federal, state or local governmental department or agency, to any hospital or to any or		en.
individual who, in the judgment of ECFMG, has a legitimate interest in such information. For further information in data collection and privacy practices, please refer to our grivacy policy available on the ECFMG website a	egarding ECFMG's complete item 26.2.A or 28.2.B	
anne/privacy.html. Signature of Applicant (In Latin characters) x manual financial Date 12	ath 1/2/03/20	06
(Signatura must match full legal name as given in PART A	(4.) Day Mouth Yes	3
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I hereby certify that the photograph, signature, and information entered in all parts of Section 23 of and status of medical school student (if applicable) accurately apply to the individual named above Officially enrolled in or a graduate of the institution indicated below. I have affixed the restriction and the restriction indicated below.	e, and that this individual is: (must check one)	•
of the photograph above.	a sala sea u	
Signature of Medical School Official (In Latin characters) X Drugette XU	AC BOID RIGHT)6
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Bruelle Sena Associate recisional at the	WORL COLLINSON	
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK	32
ANAND DASRATH,	CV 07-2433(CBA)(RR)
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-ogainst-	DECLARATION
ROSS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MEDIC	CINE,
Defend	***
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- I, Anand Dasrath, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746 (2), declare the following under the pains and penalties of perjury:
 - 1. I am the Plaintiff in the above-entitled action.
 - 2. In 2006 after my United States Medical Licensing Exam 1 ("USMLE 1") score was withheld as a result of Defendant Ross University School of Medicine ("Defendant") revoking its sponsorship of me by stating that I was not enrolled as a student there, I contact the United States Attorney General via the United States Attorney for New Jersey and at the Department of Justice headquarters in Washington, D.C.
 - I was told by representatives at both locations that the Attorney General would not intervene and that I should file suit in court.
 - 4. The representative from the United States Attorney in New Jersey advised me that their office received many complaints against the Defendant from older students and colored students.

Dated: Queens Village, New York May 22, 2008

Anand Dasrath

Office of the Registrar

School of Medicine Campus: PO Box 266, Portsmouth. Dominica, West Indies Administrative Offices: 499 Thornall Street. 10th Floor Edison, NJ 08837-2235

TEL: (732) 978-5300 FAX (732) 978-5306 Email: Reviettar acrossmed esta www.rossmed.edu



June 29, 2006

Dear Anand E Dasrath:

I regret to inform you that effective immediately you have been Administratively Withdrawn from Ross University, School of Medicine for failure to register for the May 2006 AICM course. RUSM policy dictates that students must successfully complete the AICM course and pass USMLE Step 1 before advancing into the clinical curriculum. In order for a student to remain enrolled with RUSM, they must either be registered for courses and/or registered for the Boards. Once a student becomes inactive, they are Administratively Withdrawn from RUSM.

Please be advised that if you are a recipient of federal guaranteed student loans, we must inform your lender(s) that you have not attended Ross University since the last day you attended classes or rotated in a clinical clerkship. The impact of your withdrawn status on your federal guaranteed student loans will depend on your specific situation, applicable regulations and the terms and conditions of your loan(s).

Should you ever wish to resume your studies at Ross University School of Medicine, you will be required to submit an application for re-admission to the Admissions Department and be reviewed by the Admissions Committee. To do so, please complete an Admissions application, indicating the reasons of your withdrawal, and submit it to the Admissions Office.

Best wishes in your future endeavors.

Sincerely

Michael Rendon University Registrar

Cc:

Bursar Financial Aid Clinical Department